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(TWO EDITIONS.)

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LONDON - CANADA.JOHN CAMERON, President and
Manag. Dir.God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world.
— Browning.

London, Wednesday, Nov. 10, 1897.

Need of an Insolvency Law.

A London cablegram says that Hon. W. S. Fielding, Dominion Minister of Finance, who is now in Great Britain, has been much impressed with the importance of the British demand for an effective insolvency law in Canada. "It is," the telegram adds, "the one remaining obstacle to a greater Anglo-Canadian trade."

Our commerce with Great Britain is hampered by the lack of a fair insolvency law, operated in all parts of the Dominion, and thereby promoting the confidence of old world business men in our stability as a trading community. The relations between debtors and creditors at the present moment are different in every part of the country, unfair preferences are possible, dishonest men are in many instances able to profit at the expense of men of integrity, and the general lack of uniformity is demoralizing to business, both home and foreign. A comprehensive measure ought to be passed at the earliest opportunity.

If, as has recently been reported, a strong flow of oil has been found by the Dominion borers in Athabasca, N. W. T., it is a most important "find." Hitherto, while there were strong surface indications of oil existing, deep borings brought no paying results. Particulars are to come. "Pay oil" may not yet be in sight. It is worth searching for, however.

Lord Salisbury to the French President: "Take and enjoy your own slice of the good things that have been grabbed in Africa, but put your hand on those acquired by her Britannic Majesty, and you do so at your peril."

Vice-Royalty.

No previous Governor-General of Canada took more effective means to become acquainted with the people and resources of the various parts of the Dominion than the present incumbent has adopted. As opportunity has offered, Lord Aberdeen has visited every part of the country, and has made his home among the people as one of them, entering into their social life, and turning his powers of observation to the best possible account. Beginning in British Columbia, where his Excellency years ago showed his faith in the country by becoming a tiller of the soil, a grower of fruit and a cattle raiser, Lord and Lady Aberdeen have visited every province of the Dominion, and made friends wherever they have tarried. Their present visit to Toronto, which will extend over several weeks, is a following out of his Excellency's general plan, which has proved so acceptable in every part of the Dominion.

When Lord Aberdeen, in the near future, returns to his British home, and to his responsibilities as a British statesman, he will be so equipped with knowledge of the great land in which he has represented her Majesty that he will prove a most valuable ally of Canada, and will be able, as opportunity offers, to dispel any misgivings as to the extent and variety of our resources.

The Consular Journal says that the cost of living in Japan has nearly doubled in four years, and that wages have gone up accordingly. The result is that Japanese coal mine owners are importing laborers from Corea. The Journal thinks that Japanese competition in industrial lines is a myth, and that as the Japs increase their industrial capacity their demands for better pay and their power to consume both home and imported products will be vastly increased.

A New York church choir went on strike because the pastor advocated the election of a mayorally candidate that they opposed. What next?

The False Prophets.

Messrs. Brown & Wigle, Kingsville, announce that their business has so much increased in recent months that they are compelled to run their woollen mill night and day all winter. This firm is one of many which are falsifying the prognostication of Opposition politicians, who were cocksure for years that Liberal Administration meant closed factories. The fearful fellows are now engaged in another line of prophecy—wholesale and retail. They are saying that unless the Ontario Government is defeated, this country will be face to face with direct taxation. The same cry was raised in 1879, and has been followed by results all these years. And it is doomed to a similar fate in the years to come. The people simply decline any more to listen to the Prophets of Disaster to Come. They know them and their wava.

The Toronto Eye-Election

The Dominion Government has taken steps to promptly fill the vacancy in the House of Commons created by the resignation of Mr. Lount, M. P. for Center Toronto. Nomination day will be on Nov. 23, and the polling, if any, a week later. The Liberal convention will be held on the 15th. It is understood that Mr. George H. Bertram, of the Bertram Engine Works, will be the Liberal candidate. He is a large employer of labor, an able business man, and a more than usually attractive public speaker.

The New York Medical Record has an article headed "The Benefits of a Good Cry." No one recognizes "the benefits of a good cry" more than Mr. Whitney, leader of the Ontario Opposition; but after almost herculean efforts to obtain one with which to face the province at the ensuing general election, he finds himself baffled. Even the lone pig policy brings him no relief.

The Gold Democrats have given up the fight in Kentucky. The recent elections showed that silver was right on top in that state, and henceforth it is to have its own way in the Democratic party, win or lose. A change may come, but at present there is every indication that the contest for the Presidency of the United States in 1899 the one great issue will be money—gold standard of gold and silver, with silver at a ratio of 16 to 1 of gold.

The Public Schools.

Hon. George W. Ross states that in future progressive agriculture will be more systematically taught in the public schools of Ontario. Teachers passing through the Normal Schools have for some time past been drilled in practical scientific agriculture. At the 60 Model Schools in the province, which are attended by 1,500 teachers, the department will also try to give instruction in a quiet way by means of a course of lectures every session. Domestic science is also to be taught freely at the Normal Schools, and the girls thus educated are bound to make their influence for good felt throughout the province. The question of manual training is one that must stand for future development. To be effective it would involve some considerable expense, and the Minister says he has not yet evolved any satisfactory scheme.

We see a good deal of talk, from time to time, in the Toronto World about the necessity for putting young men at the helm. It may be necessary to define the term "young man." Mr. McLean, M.P., the inspiring genius of our contemporary, is in his 44th year, but we have seen no evidence that he intends at an early date to retire from the public arena. When is a young man not a young man? Is it not a fact that a man is young as long as he proves himself to be possessed of ideas adapted to the needs of the age in which he lives, and is determined to aid in their triumph?

Men and Things.

Oxygenized Preaching.
A number of London clergymen have made arrangements for an hour or two at the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium on two forenoons each week. Now look out for muscular Christianity and oxygenized preaching!

The "Dead Line" at Fifty.
A good deal has been said about an alleged clerical dead-line at fifty, under which congregational preference is said to be reluctant to take clergymen who have passed ten times five birthdays. I presume the truth is there is no rule in the matter. Some clergymen have crossed "the dead line" at thirty or forty; others have not passed it at sixty or even seventy.

In many cases the trouble is that the clergyman has ceased reading and thinking, or his mind may be vegetating, through lack of the stimulation that comes from familiar, unstilted intercourse with improving minds. I have known clergymen who have reaped great incidental advantage and kept their thoughts fresh by membership in private conversational discussion clubs—one means of defense against "the dead line" that seems to me to be open to any clergyman who so resolves.

Potato Plots for the Poor.

There are many acres of vacant land in the city, especially in the outlying portions, which will not be required for building purposes for years to come. At present it yields only grass, thistles, weeds—and taxes. It cannot yet be sold at a profit, and it involves a yearly outlay for which the return is distant and uncertain. The owners hope to realize upon it when the approach of the building area will give it higher value. Much of this land has been offered to the Charities Society for cultivation by the deserving poor. As the society is supported by private beneficence, its funds are limited, and precarious, and it cannot accept the responsibility of extending the potato patch scheme, which was so successful this year. It has, through its president, urged the City Council to adopt the idea of opening vacant lands to the city poor. The owners of these plots only ask that the taxes shall be paid. As such property is usually assessed at farm rates, the taxes would be slight in proportion to the value of the products of the soil. The promoters of

the scheme make strong claims for it. They say that it imposes no great outlay of public funds, that it helps the poor to help themselves instead of teaching them to be paupers, and that by making honest labor the price of relief, it discriminates between the idle and the industrious indigent. The proper treatment of the needy is an important function of municipal government, and any practical plan like this merits the attention of the city fathers.

The Lay of the London Collegiate Institute.

Inspector Seath reports that the London Collegiate Institute must have more teachers, and that carpets and rugs must be furnished for the teachers' room.

I am one of many teachers,
In a leading institute,
Where they have (as special features)
Learned men of great repute,
And the wisdom of all ages
There they teach to Jill and Jack
(At the highest rate of wages).
Yet but one thing still they lack.

Now the wisdom of this college
Is indeed beyond compare,
And the wisdom of its knowledge
Is not equaled anywhere.
But though learning pours like water
Out of many open fountains,
Yet its fame is doomed to slaughter.

Why? Because it has no rugs!
Oh, how seldom do they reckon
(Those who sit at home at ease)
Of how many hardships beckon,
Of how many trials tease
The poor specialist who teaches,
And the scientist who trains,
And the pedagogue who reaches
Little children's weary brains.

When I'm tired of teaching students
And would rest, what is my doom?
I've a chair (with not a few dents),
In a bare and rugless room!
They have no respect for science,
And no rug for wisdom's feet,
But a cushionless appliance
For a professorial seat!

But now all these things must alter,
And all our wrongs must cease;
The inspector will not falter,
He will give the word of peace,
Until all the scripping creatures
He has wholly put to rout,
Until all the staff of teachers
Is complete beyond a doubt.

Until carpets vie with learning
At John Seath's stern behest:
For we teachers all are spinning
Rugless antonyms of rest;
We will have our number larger,
We will have our comforts snug,
Led by Seath upon his charger,
With our oriflamme a rug.

We will conquer in the battle,
We will conquer in the fight,
We the school trustees will rattle
Till our wrongs be made all right;
For Inspector Seath has said it:
Let the citizens succumb;
Let them pay and save their credit,
Let them pay it and be dumb.

So that when our tasks are finished,
And the "ologies are done,
And our brain cells are diminished,
And we want to have some fun;
Then the taxpayers must furnish
Gorgeous rugs and carpets fine,
And the janitor shall hush,
And the lights shall brightly shine.

And the teachers all shall meet
there,
Each shall rug and science talk,
And shall have a cushioned seat
there,
And on carpets gaily walk;
Thus our brains shall learning
nourish,
And our work be ably done,
And the L. C. I. shall flourish,
And its rating be A1.

'Maybe I'm a brute. But I believe
thoroughly in the subjection of
women," writes P. G. Mather to
the New York World. Take your
own case, Mr. Mather: Who is under
subjection in your house—is it
you or your wife?

Pounding and Expounding.
Rev. W. T. Hill said on Sunday last
that many ministers had so little
respect for the Bible that they
pounded it with their fists, as if it
were an anvil. Hereafter let all
such be expounders.

London as an Egg Center.
I had an interesting chat with Mr. Benjamin Higgins on the train the other day about—eggs. Mr. Higgins is the representative in this city of the largest egg-dealing firm in Great Britain or the world, and sends abroad a vast number of hundreds of dozens of eggs during the season. Mr. Higgins says no part of Canada produces better eggs than the neighborhood of London, and he attributes it to the fact that much attention is given hereabouts to the production of good breeds of hens. So here is a strong pointer in favor of poultry fancying and poultry exhibitions. The yellow-shell eggs are better and larger on the average than those with white shells; better also for shipping, the shells being stronger. The moral is that it will pay all egg-producers to get the best breeds of poultry as fast as possible. Mr. Higgins considers the market in Great Britain for good Canadian eggs practically unlimited, and that a vast and increasing sum of egg-money will continue to flow into Canada. But the eggs must be good, exactly as represented, and packed with great care.

Ethics of Church Musical Attractions.

The question was discussed a few days ago, pro and con, to what extent churches were justified in providing special musical attractions. The two main conflicting arguments were set forth as follows: (1) The adverse view: That the whole service, from beginning to end, including the offering, was an act of worship, and that anything was

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legitimate that could not be described as an act of worship. (2) The other view: That there was nothing wrong in themselves in the musical attractions; that they drew people to the church who would not otherwise come, and who were liable to get some good when they did come.

THE CHAINLESS AGE

[Washington Post.]
The young man who has had the seat of his trousers macerated by a chainless bull pup will be sure to deprecate the advanced age in which we reside.

OSTRICH VS. LOVER.

[Athenian Globe.]
The ostrich that sticks its head in the sand and thinks no one sees it isn't to be mentioned in the same day with the lover.

SYMPATHY WELL PLACED.

[Chicago Record.]
"I believe in sympathizing with the under dog in a fight."
"So do I, he can't jump up and bite you."

RETURNED KLONDIKERS' EX-CUSES.

[Victoria, B. C., Colonist.]
Have you yet seen a man from the Yukon, or the Passes, or St. Michael's, or anywhere else on the route to the Golden North, who is not "going back"? Have you ever seen a man who came back because he had to? The Colonist has seen one. He honestly said that he gave it up; but all the rest of them came back simply because they forgot to lock the back door, or to wind the clock, or something of that kind.

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